

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): An information processing device which exchanges a plurality of information with other information processing devices via a network, said information processing device comprising:

first input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from a first information processing device of a user;

second input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from a second information processing device;

a conversion means for converting personal information contained in a first information of which input is controlled by said first input/output control means with a second information, the second information being generic group information corresponding to a predetermined group to which said user belongs;

a substituting means for substituting the personal information of said user contained in a first information with the second information prior to sending the first information to said second information processing device, the second information also corresponding to said personal information of said user on a one-to-one basis;

first recording control means for controlling recording of said personal information of said user and said second information, said personal information of said user and said second information being recorded in a corresponding manner; and

searching means for locating the personal information corresponding to the second information prior to sending a reply, to said first information, from said second information processing device to said first information processing device,

wherein said user is registered as a member of the predetermined group, said second information is determined corresponding to said group, and said second input/output control means controls output to said second information processing device of said first information, said

personal information of said user being substituted with said second information by said substituting means.

Claim 2 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 1, wherein said personal information of said user is an e-mail address of said user.

Claim 3 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising generating means for generating said second information using a hash function.

Claim 4 (previously presented): An information processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising searching means for searching operational information of said user regarding which recording is controlled by said first recording means based on said second information contained in a third information, the searching being a reply to said first information regarding which input is controlled by said second input/output control means,

wherein said first input/output control means controls output of said third information to said first other information processing device, based on said personal information of said users searched by said searching means.

Claim 5 (previously presented): An information processing device according to Claim 1, further comprising:

second recording control means for controlling recording of personal attributes information of said user; and

third recording control means for controlling recording of information identifying said group and attribute information of said group,

wherein said attribute information of said group contains, of said personal attribute information regarding which recording is controlled by said second recording control means, a predetermined number of sets of personal attribute information common to a plurality of said users registered to said group, in descending order of degree held in common.

Claim 6 (previously presented): An information processing device according to Claim 5, further comprising verifying means for verifying permission for access to said attribute information of said group regarding which recording is controlled by said third recording control means,

wherein said verifying means verifies permission for access to said attribute information of said group based on a contract between said group and the holder of said second other information processing device.

Claim 7 (previously presented): An information processing device according to Claim 6, further comprising searching means for searching for said attribute information of said group regarding which recording is controlled by said third recording control means, based on information for identifying said group regarding which input is controlled by said second input/output control means, in the event that said verifying means verifies the permission to access of said second other information processing device,

wherein said second input/output control means controls output of said attribute information of said group searched by said searching means, to said second other information processing device.

Claim 8 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 6, further comprising searching means for searching for information for identifying said group regarding which recording is controlled by said third recording control means, based on information corresponding to said attribute information of said group contained in a fourth information regarding which input is controlled by said second input/output control means, in the event that said verifying means verifies the permission to access of said second other information processing device.

Claim 9 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein said second input/output control means controls the output of information for identifying said group searched by said searching means to said second other information processing device.

Claim 10 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 8, wherein said first input/output control means controls the output of said fourth information to said first other information processing device which said user registered to said group has, based on information for identifying said group searched by said searching means.

Claim 11 (previously presented): An information processing device according to Claim 5, further comprising:

third input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from a third other information processing device;

verifying means for verifying permission to access personal attribute information of said user regarding which recording is controlled by said second recording control means; and

first searching means for searching said personal attribute information of said user regarding which recording is controlled by said second recording control means, based on fifth information regarding which input is controlled by said third input/output control means, in the event that said verifying means verifies permission to access a third other information processing device,

wherein said third input/output control means controls the output of said personal attribute information of said user searched by said first searching means to said third other information processing device.

Claim 12 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 11, wherein said verifying means verifies permission for access to said personal attribute information of said user registered to said group, based on a contract between the holder of said third other information processing device and said group.

Claim 13 (original): An information processing device according to Claim 12, further comprising second searching means for searching for said holder of said third other information processing device which has entered into contract with said group, based on said second information regarding which input is controlled by said second input/output control means.

Claim 14 (currently amended): An information processing method for an information processing device which exchanges a plurality of information with other information processing devices via a network, said method comprising:

a first input/output control step for controlling input and output of information to and from a first information processing device held by a user;

a second input/output control step for controlling input and output of information to and from a second information processing device;

a conversion step for converting personal information contained in a first information of which input is controlled by said first input/output control step with a second information, the second information being generic group information corresponding to a predetermined group to which said user belongs;

a substituting step for substituting the personal information of said user contained in a first information with the second information, prior to sending the first information to said second information processing device, the second information also corresponding to said personal information of said user on a one-to-one basis;

a first recording control step for controlling recording of said personal information of said user and said second information, said personal information of said user and said second information being recorded in a corresponding manner; and

searching step for locating the personal information corresponding to the second information prior to sending a reply, to said first information, from said second information processing device to said first information processing device,

wherein said user is registered as a member of a predetermined group, said second information is determined corresponding to said group, and the output to said second other information processing device of said first information, wherein said personal information of said user is substituted with said second information by the processing of said substituting step, is controlled in said second input/output control step.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A program including executable instructions that when executed by one or more processors cause ~~for~~ an information processing device to perform steps

~~for the which exchange~~ exchanging a plurality of information with other information processing devices via a network, said ~~program steps~~ comprising ~~code for~~:

- a first input/output control step for controlling input and output of information to and from a first other information processing device of a user;

- a second input/output control step for controlling input and output of information to and from a second other information processing device;

- a conversion step for converting personal information contained in a first information of which input is controlled by said first input/output control step with a second information, the second information being generic group information corresponding to a predetermined group to which said user belongs;

- a substituting step for substituting personal information of said user contained in a first information with the second information, prior to sending the first information to said second other information processing device, the second information also corresponding to said personal information of said user on a one-to-one basis;

- a first recording control step for controlling recording of said personal information of said user and said second information, said personal information of said user and said second information being recorded in a corresponding manner; and

- searching step for locating the personal information corresponding to the second information prior to sending a reply, to said first information, from said second other information processing device to said first other information processing device,

wherein said user is registered as a member of a predetermined group, said second information is determined corresponding to said group, and the output to said second other information processing device of said first information, wherein said personal information of said user is substituted with said second information by said substituting step, is controlled in said second input/output control step.

Claim 16 (currently amended): A service providing system, comprising:

- a first information processing device which exchanges a plurality of information with other information processing devices via a network;

- a second information processing device which a user has; and

a third information processing device which a corporation has;

said first information processing device comprising:

first input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said second information processing device,

second input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said third information processing device,

a conversion means for converting personal information contained in a first information of which input is controlled by said first input/output control means with a second information, the second information being generic group information corresponding to a predetermined group to which said user belongs;

substituting means for substituting personal information of said user contained in a the first information with the second information, prior to sending the first information to another information processing device, the second information also corresponding to said personal information of said user on a one-to-one basis, and

first recording control means for controlling recording of said personal information of said user and said second information, said personal information of said user and said second information being recorded in a corresponding manner; and

searching means for locating the personal information corresponding to the second information prior to sending a reply, to said first information, from said another information processing device to said first information processing device,

wherein said user is registered as a member of the predetermined group, said second information is determined corresponding to said group, and said second input/output control means controls output to said third information processing device of said first information wherein said personal information of said user is substituted with said second information by said substituting means, and wherein said second information processing device comprises:

a third input/output control means for controlling input and output of information from and to said first information processing device, wherein said third input/output control means controls output of said first information to said first information processing device, and wherein said third information processing device comprises:

a fourth input/output control means for controlling input and output of information from and to said first information processing device, wherein said fourth input/output control means controls input of said first information from said first information processing device.

Claim 17 (previously presented): A service providing system according to Claim 16, wherein said first information processing device further comprises generating means for generating said second information using a hash function, wherein said third information processing device distinguishes said user having said second information processing device which has output said first information to said first information processing device, based on said second information contained in said first information regarding which input is controlled by said fourth input/output control means.

Claim 18 (original): A service providing system according to Claim 16, wherein, with said third information processing device, said fourth input/output control means control output of a third information which is a reply to said first information containing said second information.

Claims 19-34 (canceled)

Claim 35 (currently amended): A service providing system, comprising:
a first information processing device which executes processing of a plurality of information relating to the activity of a community comprising a plurality of users;
second information processing devices which said users have;
third information processing devices which corporations have; and
a fourth information processing device which a third-party organization for monitoring the activity of said community has;
said first information processing device comprising:
a first recording control means for controlling recording of information relating to said community made up of said plurality of users;;
a communication service providing means for providing communication services to said plurality of users making up said community, and

a first input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said second through said fourth information processing devices;

a conversion means for converting personal information of at least on said users contained in a first information of which input is controlled by said first input/output control means with a second information, the second information being generic group information corresponding to a predetermined group to which said user belongs;

a substituting means for substituting personal information of the at least one said users contained in a first information with the second information, prior to sending the first information to another information processing device, the second information also corresponding to said personal information of said user on a one-to-one basis;

a searching means for locating the personal information corresponding to the second information prior to sending a reply, to said first information, from said another information processing device to said first information processing device;
said second information processing device comprising:

a second input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said first information processing device;

said third information processing device comprising:

a third input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said first information processing device, wherein said third input/output control means control output of sending request for reliability information of said community to said fourth information processing device via said first information processing device; and

said fourth information processing device comprising

a fourth input/output control means for controlling input and output of information to and from said first information processing device, and

a generating means for generating said community reliability information based on information relating to said community regarding which recording is controlled by said first recording controlled means, regarding which input is controlled by said fourth input/output control means,

wherein said fourth input/output control means control input of requests sent for said community reliability information, and control output of said community reliability information to said third information processing device via said first information processing device.

Claim 36 (new): An information processing device according to claim 1, wherein substituting the second information conceals the identity of the user.

Claim 37 (new): An information processing method according to claim 14, wherein the step of substituting the second information conceals the identity of the user.

Claim 38 (new): A program according to claim 15, wherein the step of substituting the second information conceals the identity of the user.

Claim 39 (new): A service providing system according to claim 16, wherein substituting the second information conceals the identity of the user.

Claim 40 (new): A service providing system according to claim 35, wherein substituting the second information conceals the identity of the user.